NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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RELEASE NO. 02-012



For Release: Feb. 15, 2002

NASA releases wind tunnel mishap report

NASA has approved the report of a mishap investigation board into the failure of a wind tunnel test stand on Feb. 5, 2001, at NASA's Langley Research Center, Hampton. The board ruled that the cause of the mishap was a catastrophic overload of a part of the stand that holds the test model called a sting.

The failure occurred during a test in Langley's 16-foot transonic wind tunnel, when the wind speed equaled Mach 0.8 or approximately 600 miles per hour. The mishap caused major damage to the tunnel and destroyed the jet intake of an F-15.

Volume One of the report is available from the Langley Research Center Office of Public Affairs at 757-864-6124.